Security Council

Fifty-first Year

Provisional

3677th Meeting

Wednesday, 3 July 1996, 12.55 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Dejammet	(France)
Members:	Botswana	Mr. Legwaila
	Chile	Mr. Somavía
	China	Mr. Wang Xuexian
	Egypt	Mr. Awaad
	Germany	Mr. Eitel
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Sane
	Honduras	Mr. Martínez Blanco
	Indonesia	Mr. Wibisono
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Poland	Mr. Włosowicz
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Park
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Richmond
	United States of America	Mr. Inderfurth

Agenda

The situation in Croatia

Further report on the situation of human rights in Croatia pursuant to Security Council resolution 1019 (1995) (S/1996/456)

96-85897 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 12.55 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President (*interpretation from French*): As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of July, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Nabil Elaraby, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of June. I am sure I speak for all members of the Security Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Elaraby for the great skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month. I am quite certain that Ambassador Awaad will convey this very sincere and unanimous tribute of the Council to Ambassador Elaraby, and I take this opportunity to thank the entire Egyptian delegation for the way in which it supported its Ambassador during his presidency of the Council in June.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Croatia

Further report on the situation of human rights in Croatia pursuant to Security Council resolution 1019 (1995) (S/1996/456)

The President (*interpretation from French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Croatia, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Nobilo (Croatia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the further report on the situation of human rights in Croatia pursuant to Security Council resolution 1019 (1995), document S/1996/456.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the further report of the Secretary-General of 21 June 1996 (S/1996/456) submitted pursuant to its resolution 1019 (1995) on Croatia.

"The Security Council is deeply concerned at the failure by the Croatian Government to take sufficient measures to safeguard the rights of the local Serb population and to ensure their safety and well-being. The Council is also deeply concerned at the Croatian Government's failure to promote conditions, including satisfactory procedures, facilitating the return of all Croatian Serbs who wish to do so. The Council strongly deplores such failure to act.

"The Security Council notes that the Croatian Government has begun to cooperate with international human rights mechanisms, and that it has considered various initiatives for the protection of minority rights. Nevertheless the Council underlines that the Croatian Government must undertake determined and sustained efforts to ensure respect for and protection of the rights of Croatian Serbs and to provide for their safeguarding in the legal and constitutional framework of the Republic of Croatia, including by the reactivation of the relevant articles of its Constitutional Law. The Council reminds the Croatian Government that its obligation to promote respect for and protection of such rights cannot be made conditional upon other factors, including upon political negotiations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

"The Security Council expects the Croatian Government to take steps forthwith to comply with the demands contained in its resolution 1019 (1995) and in its statements of 8 January 1996 (S/PRST/1996/2), 23 February 1996 (S/PRST/1996/8) and 22 May 1996 (S/PRST/1996/26).

"The Security Council reiterates that all States must cooperate fully with the International Tribunal and its organs established pursuant to its resolution 827 (1993). It notes the cooperation by the Croatian Government with the International Tribunal to date, and reminds the Croatian Government of its obligation to execute arrest warrants in respect of any person in its territory indicted by the Tribunal. The Council calls upon the Croatian Government, with due respect to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to use its influence with the Bosnian Croat leadership to ensure their cooperation with the Tribunal.

"The Security Council will continue to follow this issue closely. It requests the Secretary-General to keep it regularly informed on measures undertaken by the Croatian Government in the light of this statement, and to report in any case no later than 1 September 1996."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1996/29.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.